amar chitra katha

No. 214 Rs. 2.50

Bheema and Hanuman



RETOLD FROM THE MAHABHARATA

The encounter between Hanuman, the monkey hero of the *Ramayana* and Bheema, the mighty Pandava prince, is one of the most dramatic incidents in the Mahabharata.

Hanuman is the son of Vayu, the wind-god; and Bheema is the son of Kunti, born by the grace of Vayu. Thus the two, can be considered brothers.

Hanuman is described as a *Chiranjivi* an immortal. This explains how the meeting between the two was possible, though Bheema was born many centuries later.

The episode also emphasises the feminine intuition of Draupadi who unerringly chose Bheema for a risky and romantic errand.

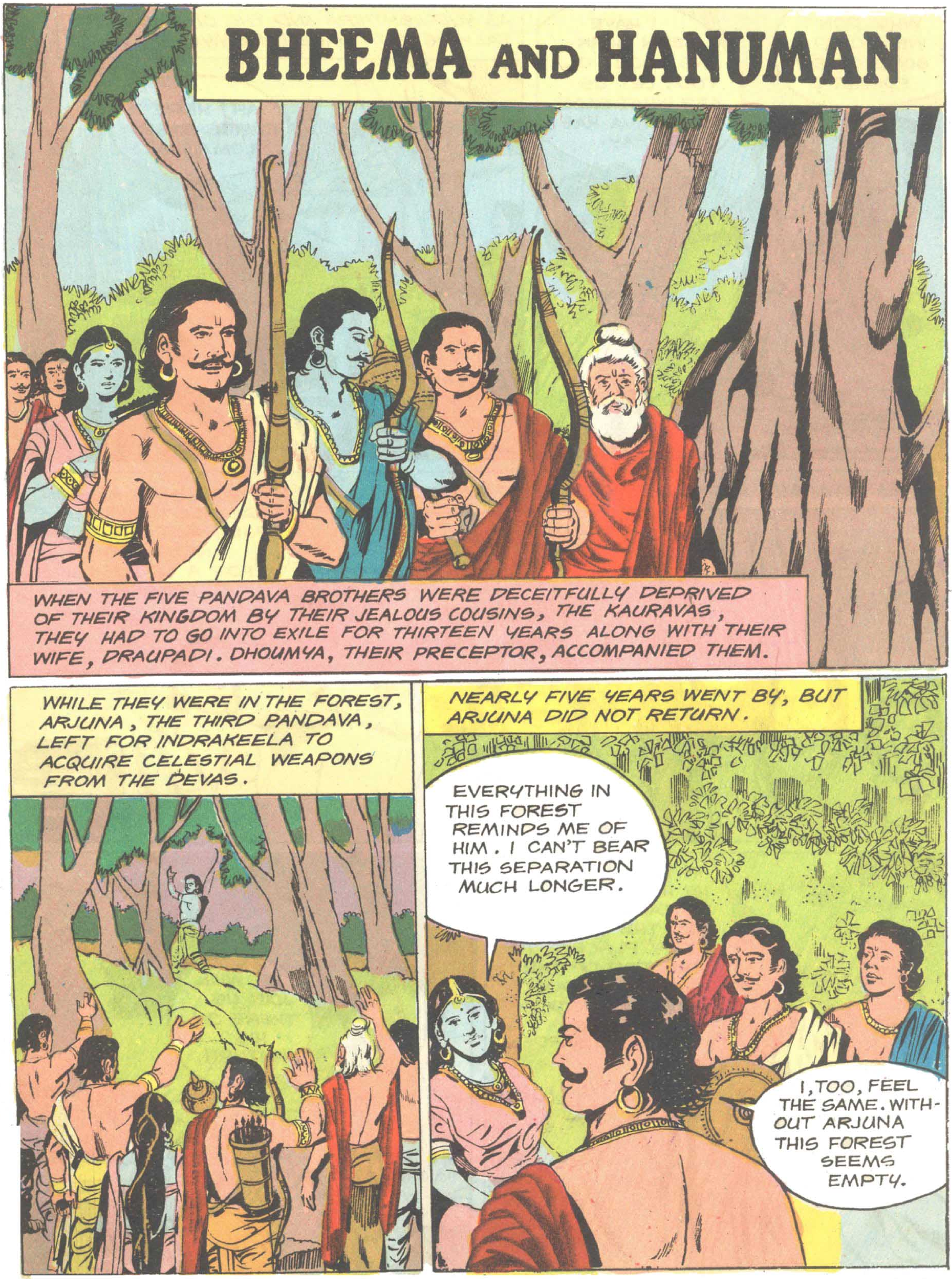
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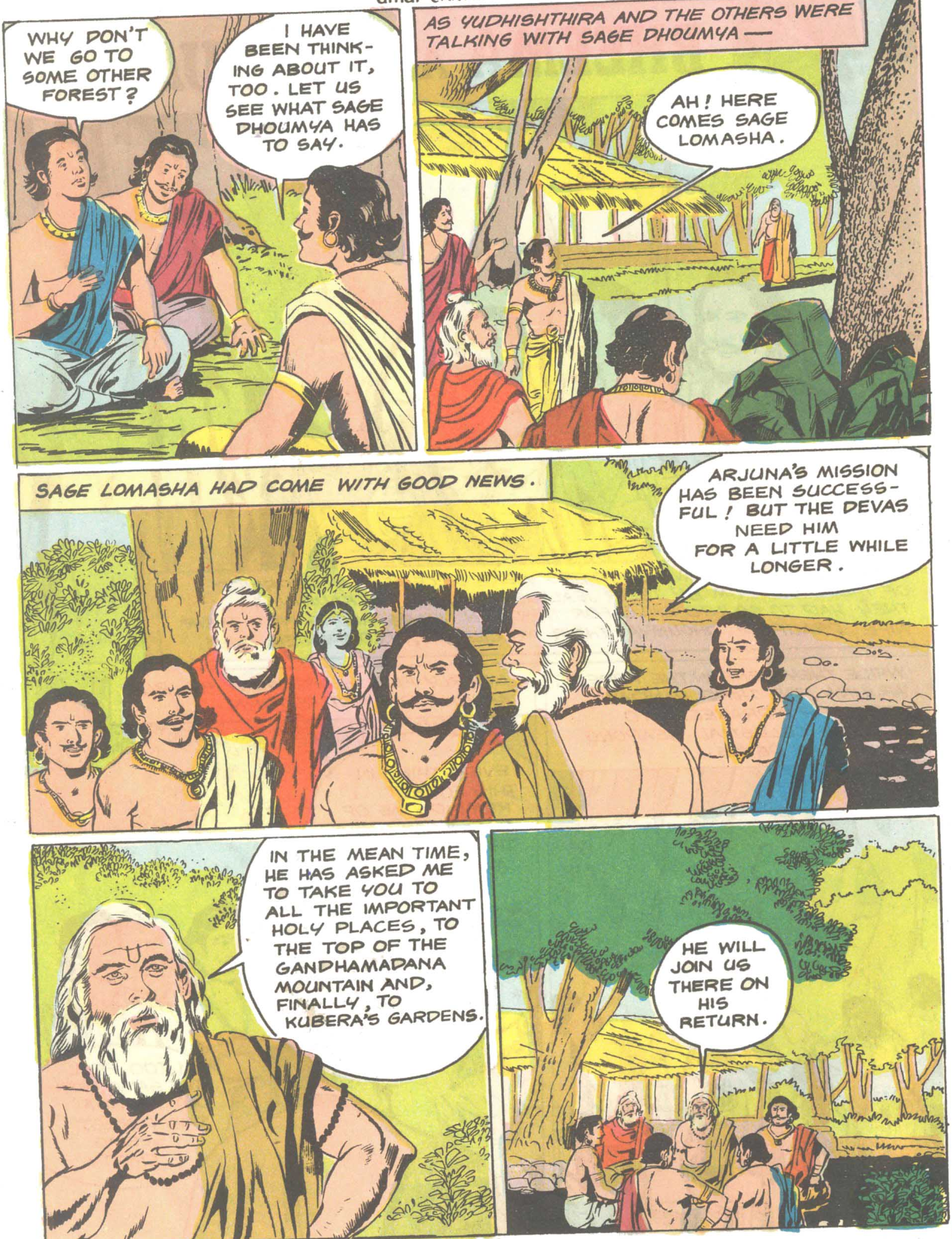
 May 15 1980


Published by H.G. Mirchandani, for India Book House Education Trust, Rusi Mansion, 29, Nathalal Parekh Marg, Bombay-400 039 and printed by him at IBH Printers, Marol Naka, Mathuradas Vissanji Road, Andheri (East), Bombay-400 059.


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BHEEMA AND HANUMAN




WHY DON'T WE GO TO SOME OTHER FOREST?
I HAVE BEEN THINKING ABOUT IT, TOO. LET US SEE WHAT SAGE DHOUMYA HAS TO SAY.
AS YUDHISHTHIRA AND THE OTHERS WERE TALKING WITH SAGE DHOUMYA —
AH! HERE COMES SAGE LOMASHA.
SAGE LOMASHA HAD COME WITH GOOD NEWS.
ARJUNA'S MISSION HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL! BUT THE DEVAS NEED HIM FOR A LITTLE WHILE LONGER.
IN THE MEAN TIME, HE HAS ASKED ME TO TAKE YOU TO ALL THE IMPORTANT HOLY PLACES, TO THE TOP OF THE GANDHAMADANA MOUNTAIN AND, FINALLY, TO KUBERA'S GARDENS.
HE WILL JOIN US THERE ON HIS RETURN.


SO THE PANDAVAS AND DRAUPADI SET OUT WITH THE SAGES. THE THOUGHT THAT THEY WOULD SOON BE WITH ARJUNA MADE THE JOURNEY EASIER.
LOOK! THE MOUNTAIN!
ISN'T IT BEAUTIFUL— THE GANDHAMADANA MOUNTAIN, ABODE OF THE DEMIGODS?
SOON THEY WERE CLIMBING THE MOUNTAIN.
BE VERY CAREFUL. THE PATH AHEAD IS NARROW AND STEEP.


WHEN THEY WERE NEARLY AT THE TOP —
BHEEMA, AS YOU ARE THE STRONGEST, DRAUPADI SHALL BE UNDER YOUR SPECIAL CARE.
IT WAS AS IF YUDHISHTHIRA HAD SENSED WHAT WAS COMING : THE NEXT MOMENT A VIOLENT DUST-STORM BROKE OUT.
ARE THE HEAVENS COMING DOWN ?
O BHEEMA, HELP ME !
TAKING DRAUPADI BY THE HAND, BHEEMA PULLED HER UNDER A TREE.
THE WIND ABATED BUT IT WAS FOLLOWED BY HEAVY RAIN.


SUDDENLY, THE SKY CLEARED AND THE SUN CAME OUT.
YUDHISHTHIRA'S FIRST CONCERN WAS FOR DRAUPADI.
ARE YOU SAFE? CAN YOU WALK?
I AM QUITE ALL RIGHT — AND READY TO CARRY ON.
BUT A FEW MOMENTS AFTER THEY HAD STARTED —
BH-EE-MA! HE-ELP ME!
NAKULA, WHO WAS BEHIND HER, RAN FORWARD.
DRAUPADI!

O DRAUPADI!
WHEN HER FATHER ENTRUSTED HER TO US, HE THOUGHT SHE WOULD KNOW ONLY HAPPINESS. INSTEAD, HARDSHIP AND SORROW HAVE BEEN HER LOT!
DRAUPADI HAS FAINTED!
THE SAGES, TOO, HURRIED TOWARDS DRAUPADI . . .
. . . AND TRIED TO REVIVE HER.


DRAUPADI SLOWLY OPENED HER EYES.
THEY PLACED HER GENTLY ON A DEERSKIN AND MADE HER REST AGAINST A TREE.
YUDHISHTHIRA WAS WORRIED.
O BHEEMA, IT WILL BE HARD FOR DRAUPADI TO CROSS THE SNOW-BOUND PEAKS STILL AHEAD OF US.
WHY DON'T YOU AND SAHADEVA STAY HERE WITH HER? THE REST OF US WILL PROCEED AND RETURN LATER WITH ARJUNA.
BUT BHEEMA WOULD NOT HEAR OF IT.
I CAN'T LET YOU GO. LET'S HAVE NO MORE SEPARATIONS. YOU KNOW HOW WE SUFFERED WITHOUT ARJUNA.

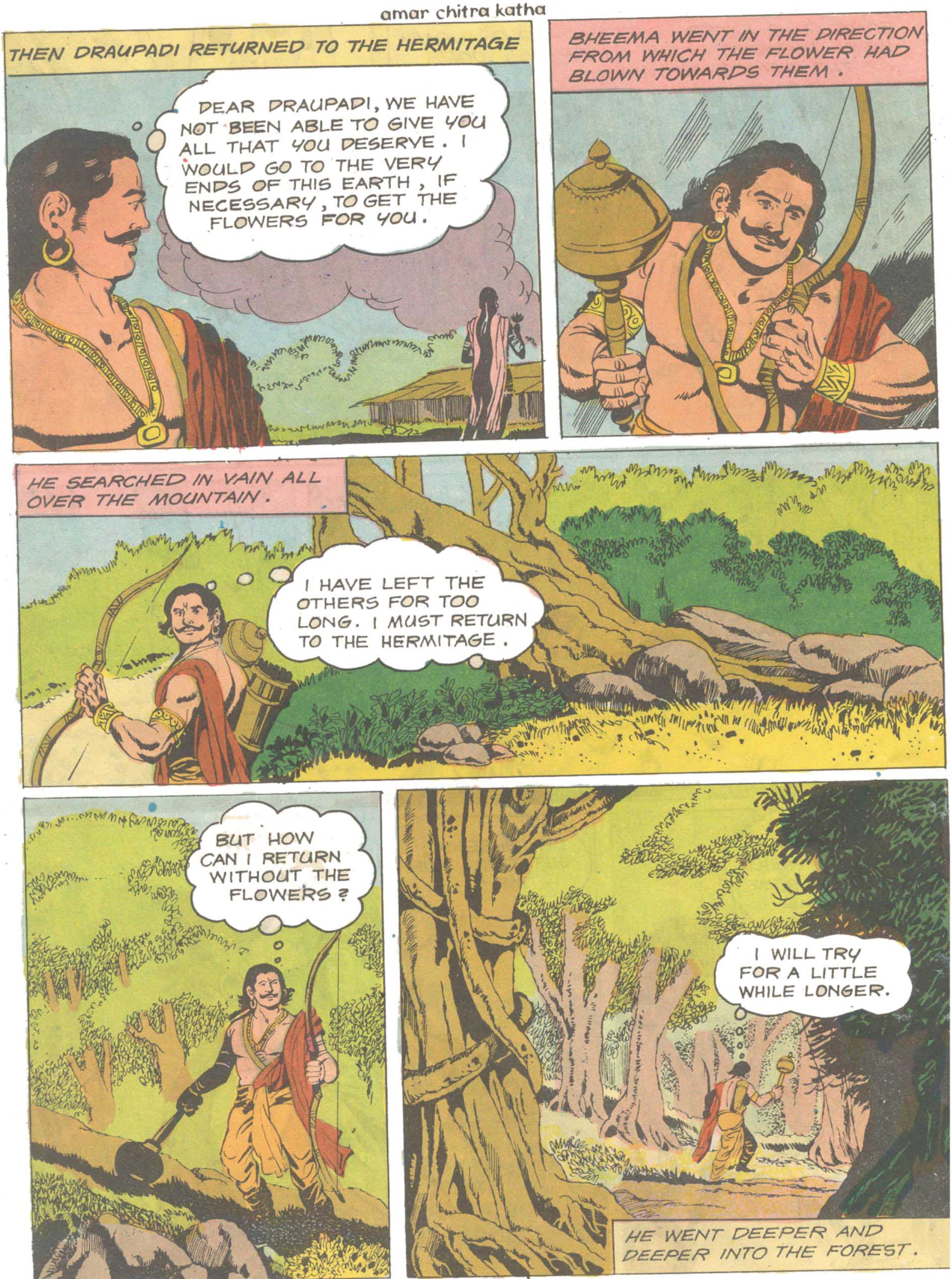


* SON OF BHEEMA AND HIDIMBA, A DEMONESS


GHATOTKACHA, YOU CAN FLY ANY-WHERE AT WILL. CARRY DRAUPADI AND FOLLOW US TO THE MOUNTAIN TOP.
FLY LOW, SO SHE DOES NOT BECOME UNEASY.
SHE'LL HAVE NO REASON TO FEEL UNEASY, FOR ALL OF YOU WILL BE WITH HER. MY FOLLOWERS WILL CARRY YOU.
CARRIED SWIFTLY BY THE RAKSHASAS . . .

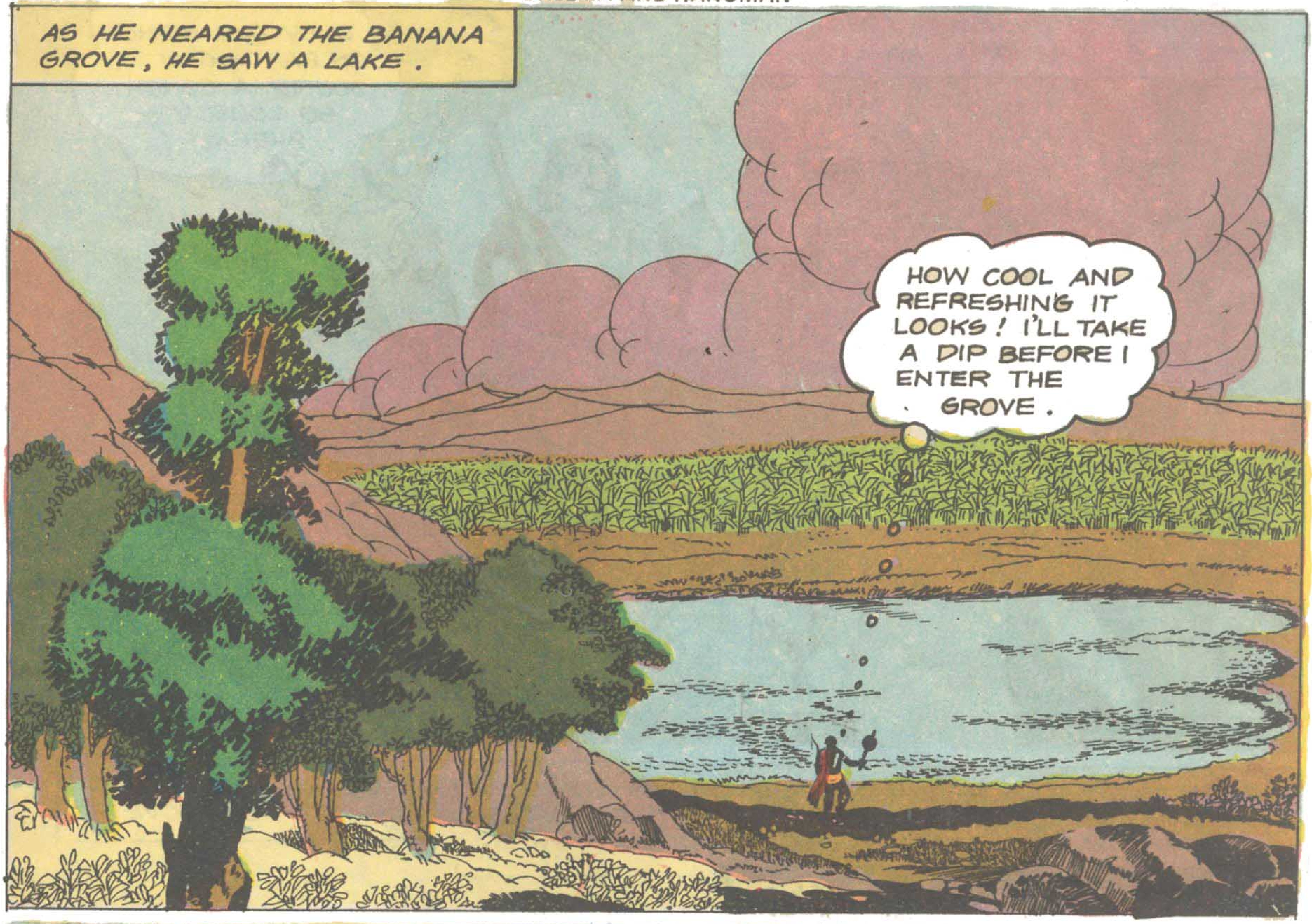

. . . THEY ALIGHTED ON TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN.
AS THEY WALKED FARTHER —
THIS IS THE HOLY PLACE WHERE ONCE THE CELESTIAL SAGES, NARA AND NARAYANA, PERFORMED SEVERE PENANCE.
THE INHABITANTS OF THE PLACE RECEIVED THE PANDAVAS WITH HONOUR.
WELCOME TO OUR HERMITAGE, VIRTUOUS ONES!
LATER —
LET US REST HERE FOR A FEW DAYS.


SOME DAYS LATER, BHEEMA AND DRAUPADI WERE WALKING IN THE CHARMING WOODS OF THE HERMITAGE WHEN—
BHEEMA, LOOK AT THIS EXQUISITE FLOWER!
WHAT A SWEET FRAGRANCE IT HAS!
I'LL GIVE THIS ONE TO YUDHISH-THIRA. BUT I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE SOME MORE TO TAKE BACK WITH US.
OH, BHEEMA, GET THEM FOR ME!

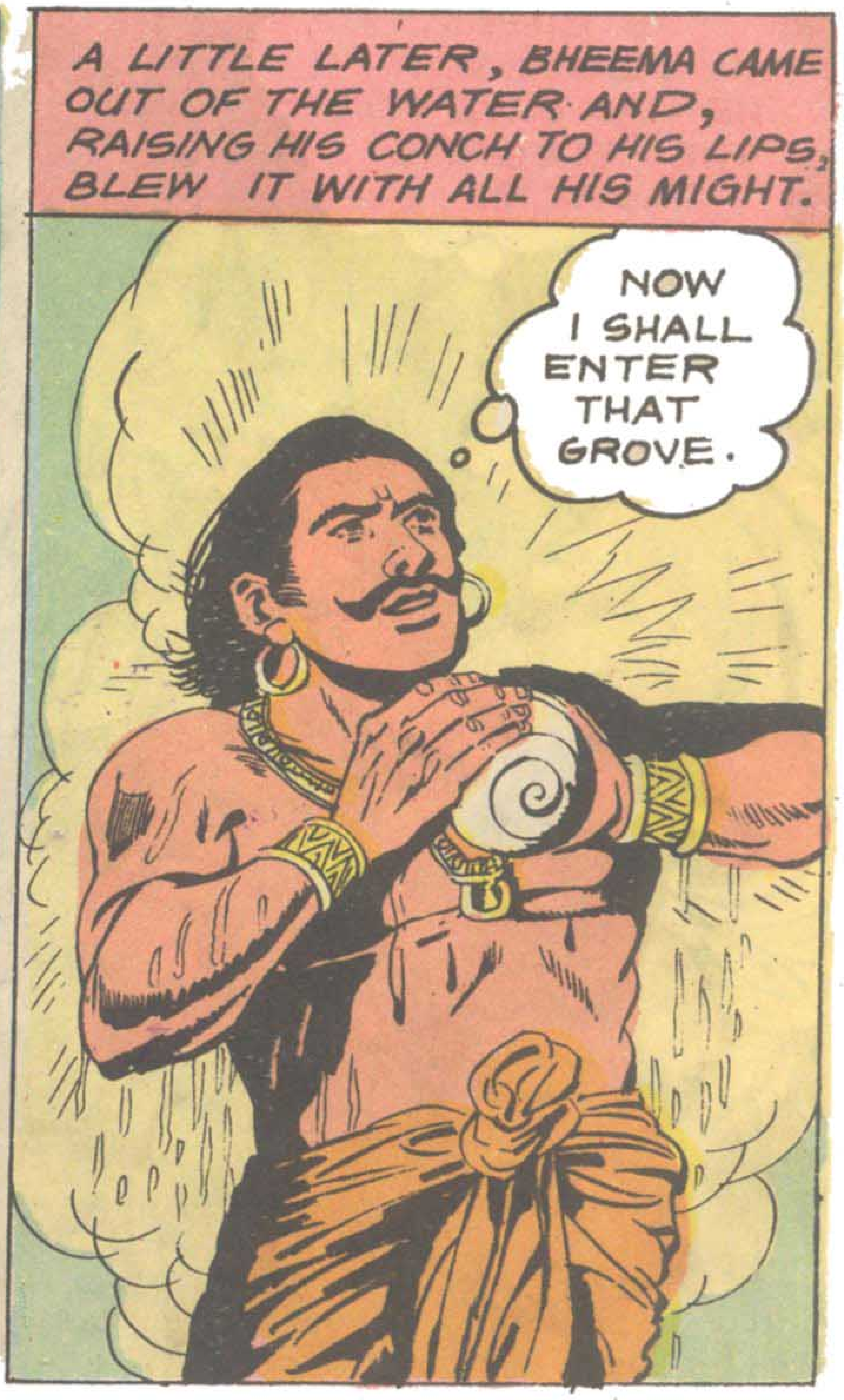

THEN DRAUPADI RETURNED TO THE HERMITAGE
DEAR DRAUPADI, WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO GIVE YOU ALL THAT YOU DESERVE. I WOULD GO TO THE VERY ENDS OF THIS EARTH, IF NECESSARY, TO GET THE FLOWERS FOR YOU.
BHEEMA WENT IN THE DIRECTION FROM WHICH THE FLOWER HAD BLOWN TOWARDS THEM.
HE SEARCHED IN VAIN ALL OVER THE MOUNTAIN.
I HAVE LEFT THE OTHERS FOR TOO LONG. I MUST RETURN TO THE HERMITAGE.
BUT HOW CAN I RETURN WITHOUT THE FLOWERS?
I WILL TRY FOR A LITTLE WHILE LONGER.
HE WENT DEEPER AND DEEPER INTO THE FOREST.

SUDDENLY —
A ROGUE ELEPHANT !
SECONDS LATER , THE ELEPHANT WOULD HAVE CRUSHED HIM . . .
. . . BUT BHEEMA SEIZED IT BY THE TUSKS . . .
. . . AND DASHED IT TO THE GROUND.


POOR CREATURE ! YOU LEFT ME NO CHOICE. I HAD TO KILL YOU !
HE WALKED ON, TERRIFYING THE ANIMALS WHICH CROSSED HIS PATH.
THEN HE CAME TO A CLEARING FROM WHERE HE COULD SEE A BANANA GROVE AT THE FOOT OF A MOUNTAIN.
HE STRODE TOWARDS IT DESTROYING EVERY-THING IN HIS PATH.
PERHAPS I'LL FIND THE FLOWERS ON THAT MOUNTAIN.


AS HE NEARED THE BANANA GROVE, HE SAW A LAKE.
HOW COOL AND REFRESHING IT LOOKS! I'LL TAKE A DIP BEFORE I ENTER THE GROVE.




A LITTLE LATER, BHEEMA CAME OUT OF THE WATER AND, RAISING HIS CONCH TO HIS LIPS, BLEW IT WITH ALL HIS MIGHT.
NOW I SHALL ENTER THAT GROVE.


UNKNOWN TO BHEEMA, THE GROVE WAS THE HOME OF HANUMAN.
ONLY ONE BEING ON EARTH CAN SOUND A CONCH SO LOUDLY — BHEEMA!
FROM THE GROVE HANUMAN SPIED BHEEMA AND BY HIS SPIRITUAL POWERS DIVINED HIS PURPOSE.
IT IS BHEEMA! MY DEAR BROTHER! HE HAS COME FOR THE CELESTIAL FLOWERS!
HANUMAN STRETCHED HIMSELF ACROSS THE NARROW PATH AT THE GROVE'S ENTRANCE.
BHEEMA WILL NEED MY GUIDANCE AND PROTECTION TO SUCCEED IN HIS QUEST.

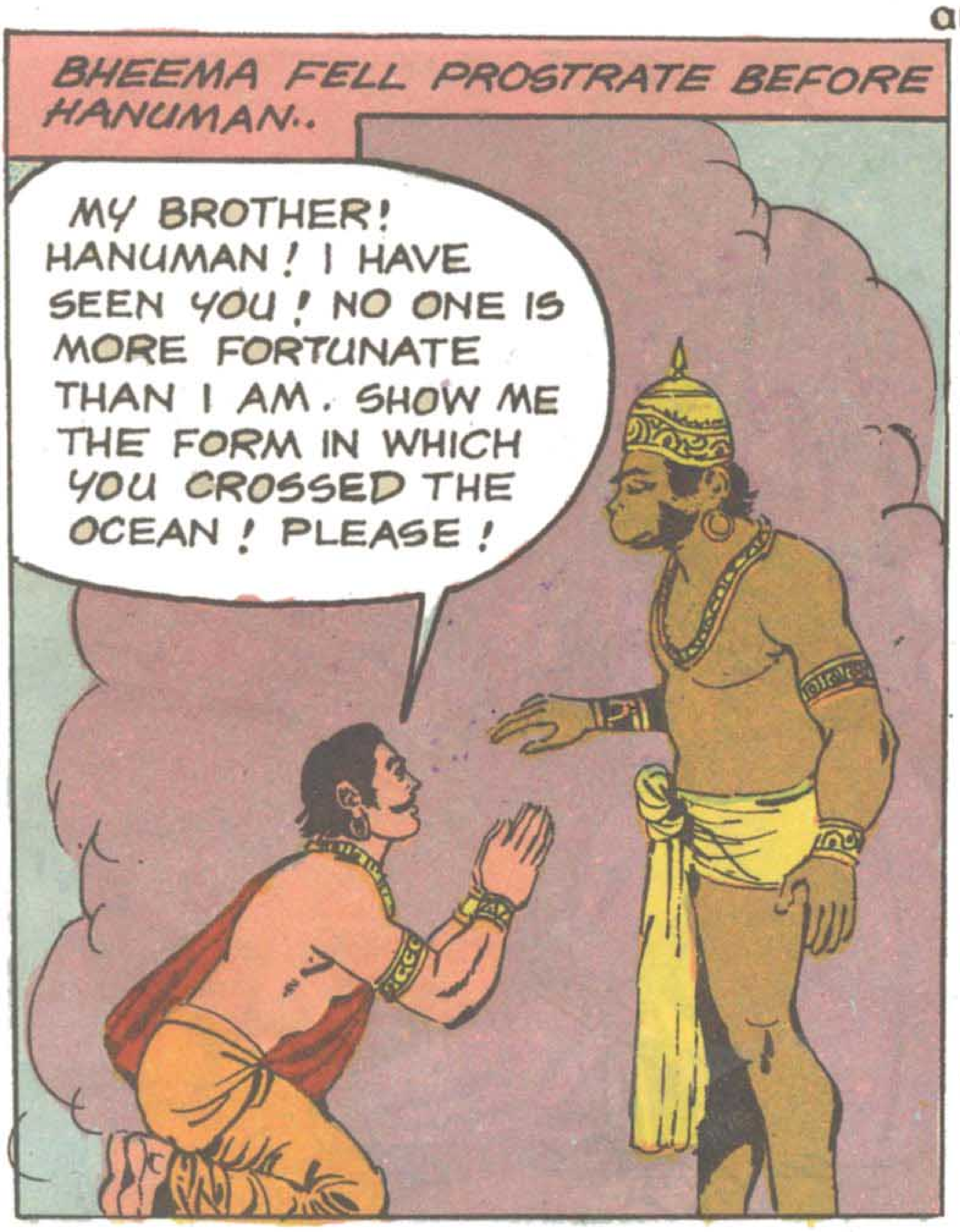

TO ATTRACT BHEEMA'S ATTENTION HE BEGAN TO LASH HIS LONG TAIL ON THE GROUND AND TO ROAR.
BHEEMA HAS ALWAYS BEEN TOO PROUD OF HIS STRENGTH. FOR HIS OWN GOOD, I MUST TEACH HIM TO BE HUMBLE.
SO LOUD WERE THE SOUNDS HANUMAN MADE THAT THE MOUNTAIN SHOOK AND RUMBLED.
EVEN BHEEMA, FOR A MOMENT, KNEW FEAR!
THE DEAFENING SOUNDS COME FROM THE GROVE!
BUT HE STRODE UP TO THE GROVE. THE SIGHT HE SAW MADE HIM LAUGH WITH RELIEF.
HA! HA! HO! HO! IT'S ONLY A MONKEY! I'LL HAVE SOME FUN.

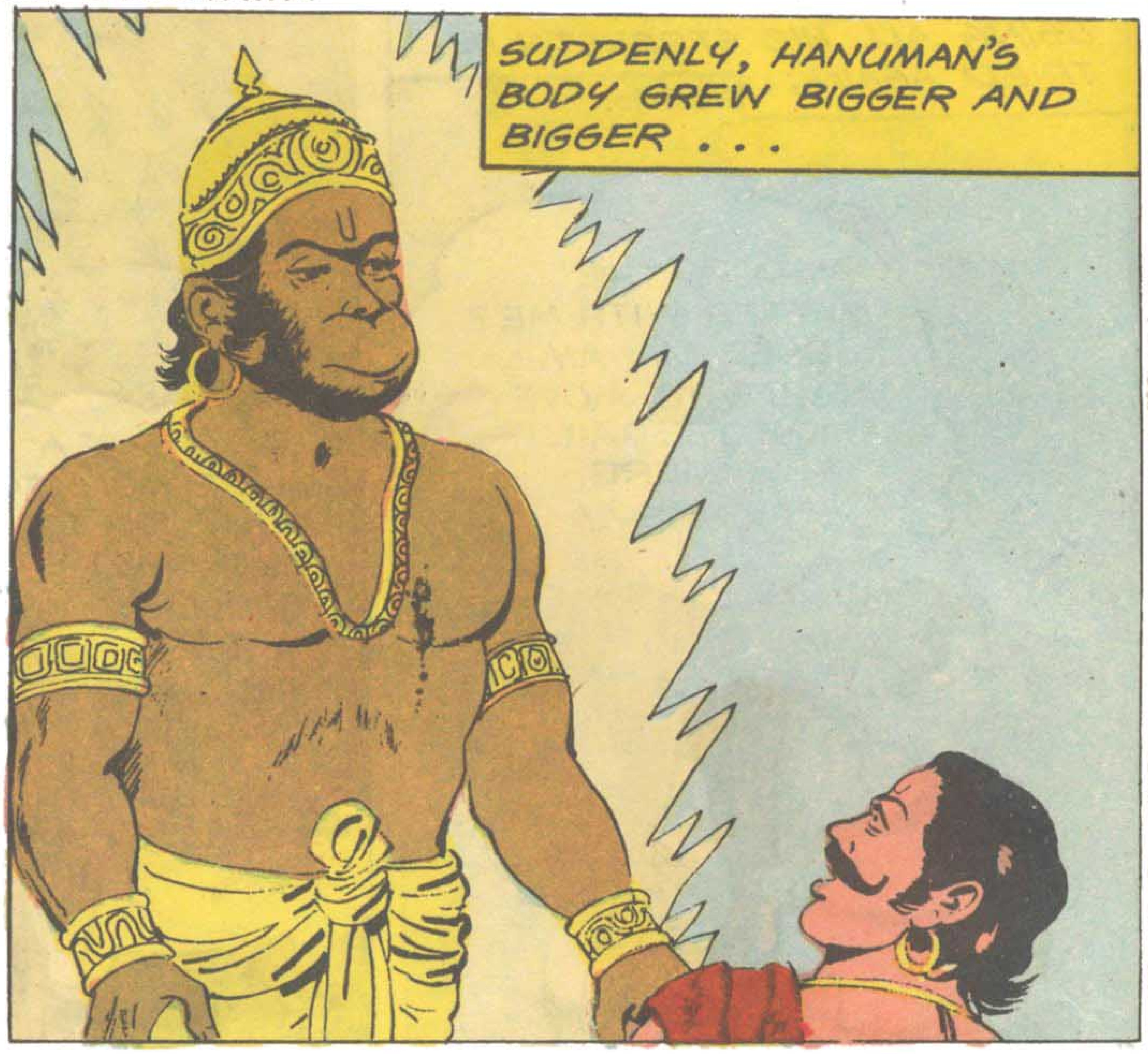

GOING CLOSER, HE GAVE A SUDDEN ROAR.
GR-R-R-R!
HANUMAN SIMPLY TURNED AND LOOKED LAZILY AT BHEEMA.
I AM ILL. I WAS ASLEEP AND YOU WOKE ME UP. BEING A MAN, YOU ARE WISER THAN I. YOU OUGHT TO BE MORE CONSIDERATE. WHO ARE YOU?
I AM BHEEMA, THE SON OF PANDU, BORN TO KUNTI THROUGH THE GRACE OF VAYU!
WHY HAVE YOU COME HERE? MERE MORTALS MAY NOT GO ANY FURTHER ALONG THIS PATH. BE SENSIBLE, AND GO BACK.
HOW DARE THIS MONKEY TALK TO ME LIKE THAT!

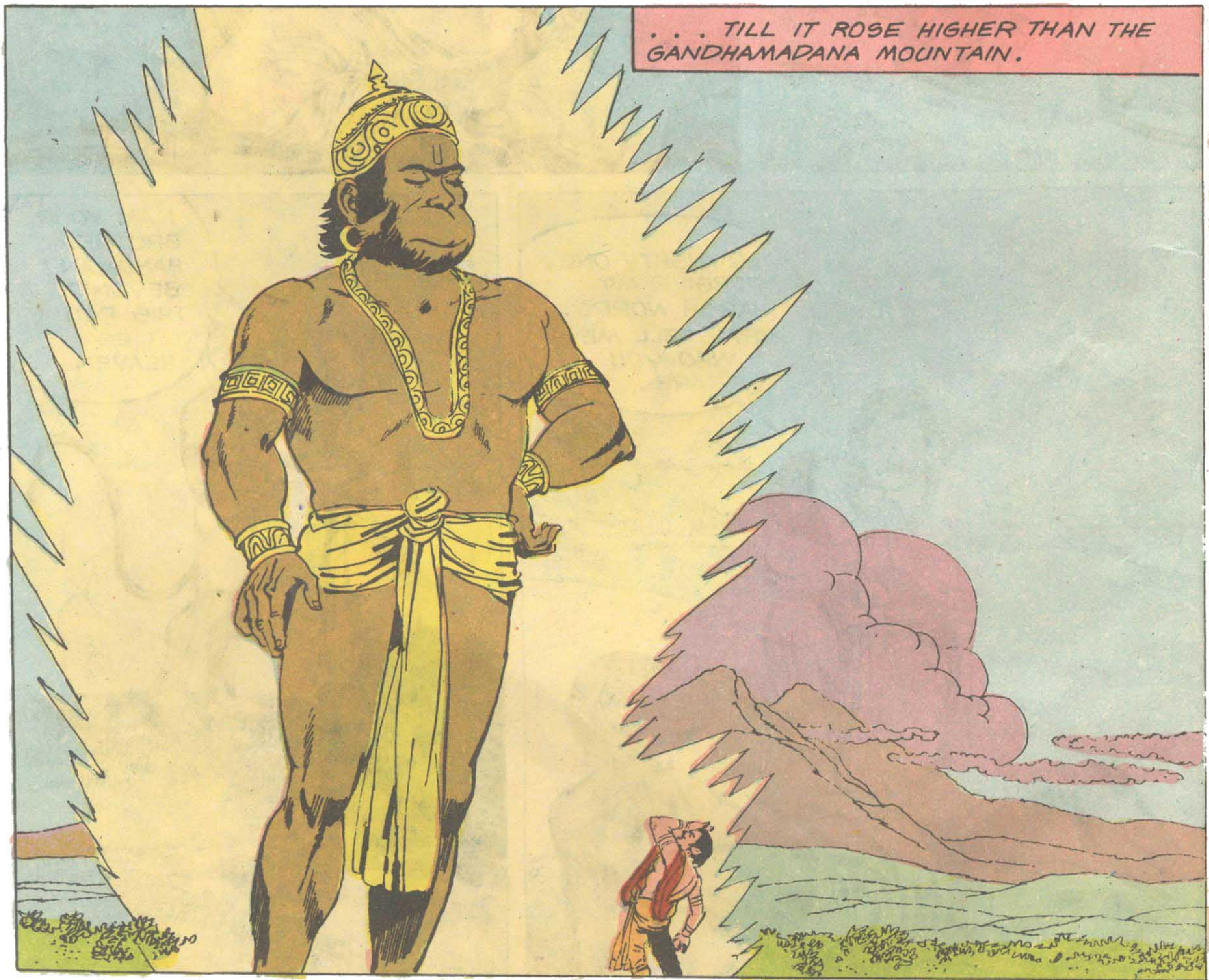

IMPUDENT MONKEY! LET ME PASS OR I SHALL THRASH YOU!
BHEEMA'S ARROGANCE AMUSED HANUMAN, BUT HE HID HIS SMILE.
I AM ILL. I DON'T HAVE THE ENERGY TO MOVE. IF YOU MUST ENTER THE GROVE, LEAP OVER ME.
IF IT WERE NOT A SIN TO DO SO, I WOULD. I WOULD HAVE LEAPT RIGHT OVER YOU AND THE MOUNTAIN, JUST AS HANUMAN LEAPT OVER THE OCEAN TO FIND RAMA'S WIFE!
WHO IS THIS HANUMAN?
HE IS MY HANDSOME, STRONG, INTELLIGENT BROTHER. AND I AM AS STRONG AS HE IS! SO GET UP AND LET ME PASS OR I'LL SEND YOU TO THE ABODE OF YAMA!


O MIGHTY BHEEMA, I AM OLD AND WEAK. HAVE PITY ON ME. MOVE MY TAIL ASIDE AND GO ACROSS.
FOR ALL HIS ROARING, THIS MONKEY IS A WEAKLING!
HA! I CAN PUSH IT WITH MY LEFT HAND!
BUT SURPRISINGLY HE COULD NOT EVEN MOVE IT!
HM-M-M. I SUPPOSE I'LL HAVE TO USE BOTH HANDS.
NO! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! I'LL TAKE A DEEP BREATH AND TRY AGAIN.

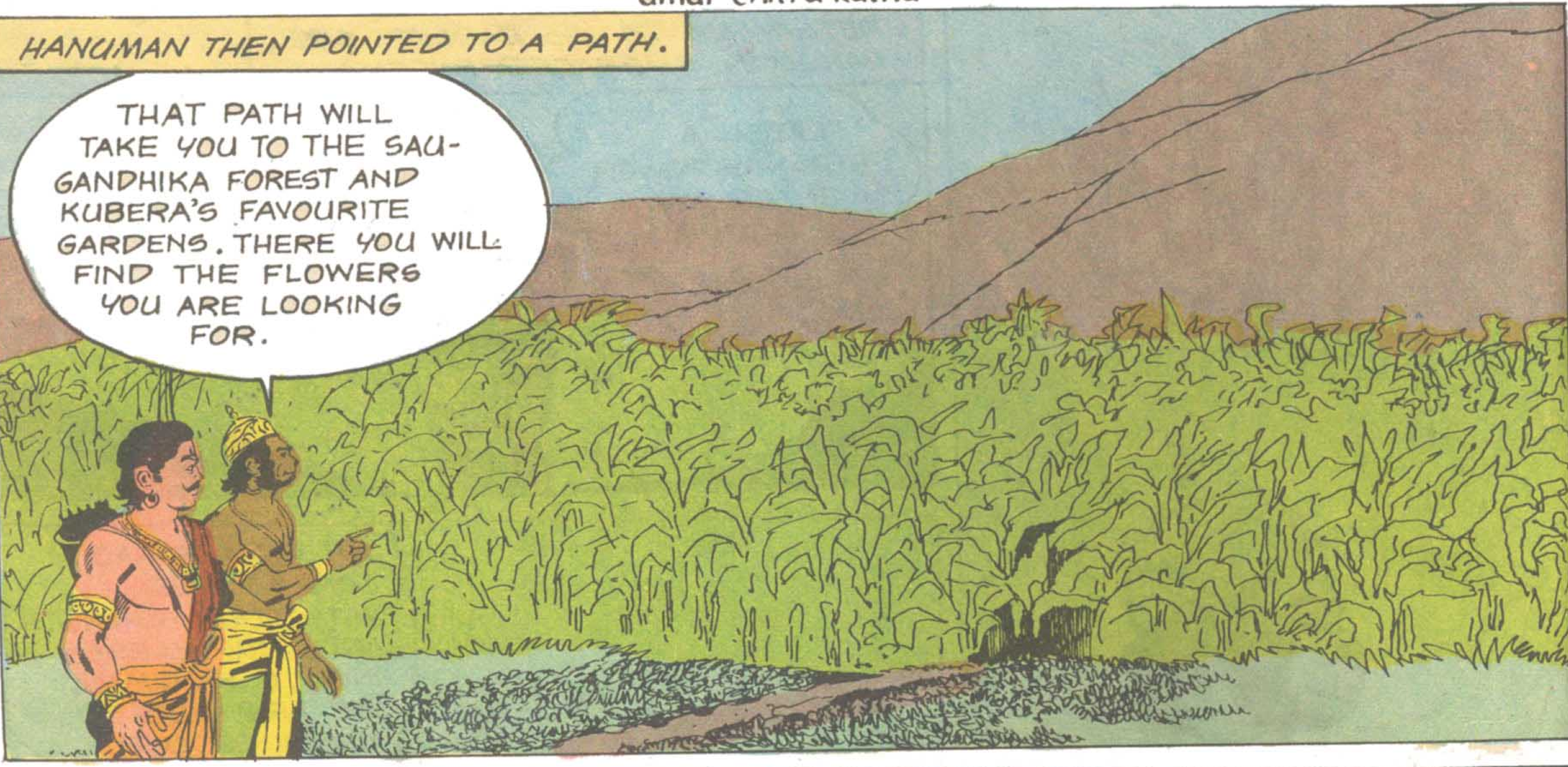

USING ALL HIS STRENGTH, HE TRIED AGAIN.
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH ME? I, BHEEMA, AM UNABLE TO MOVE ASIDE THE TAIL OF A MERE MONKEY!
BUT IS IT A MERE MONKEY? NO, IT ISN'T! THEN WHO COULD IT BE?
O MIGHTY ONE, FORGIVE MY HARSH WORD . PRAY TELL ME WHO YOU ARE.
I AM YOUR BROTHER, HANUMAN! BEYOND THIS PATH LIES HEAVEN....

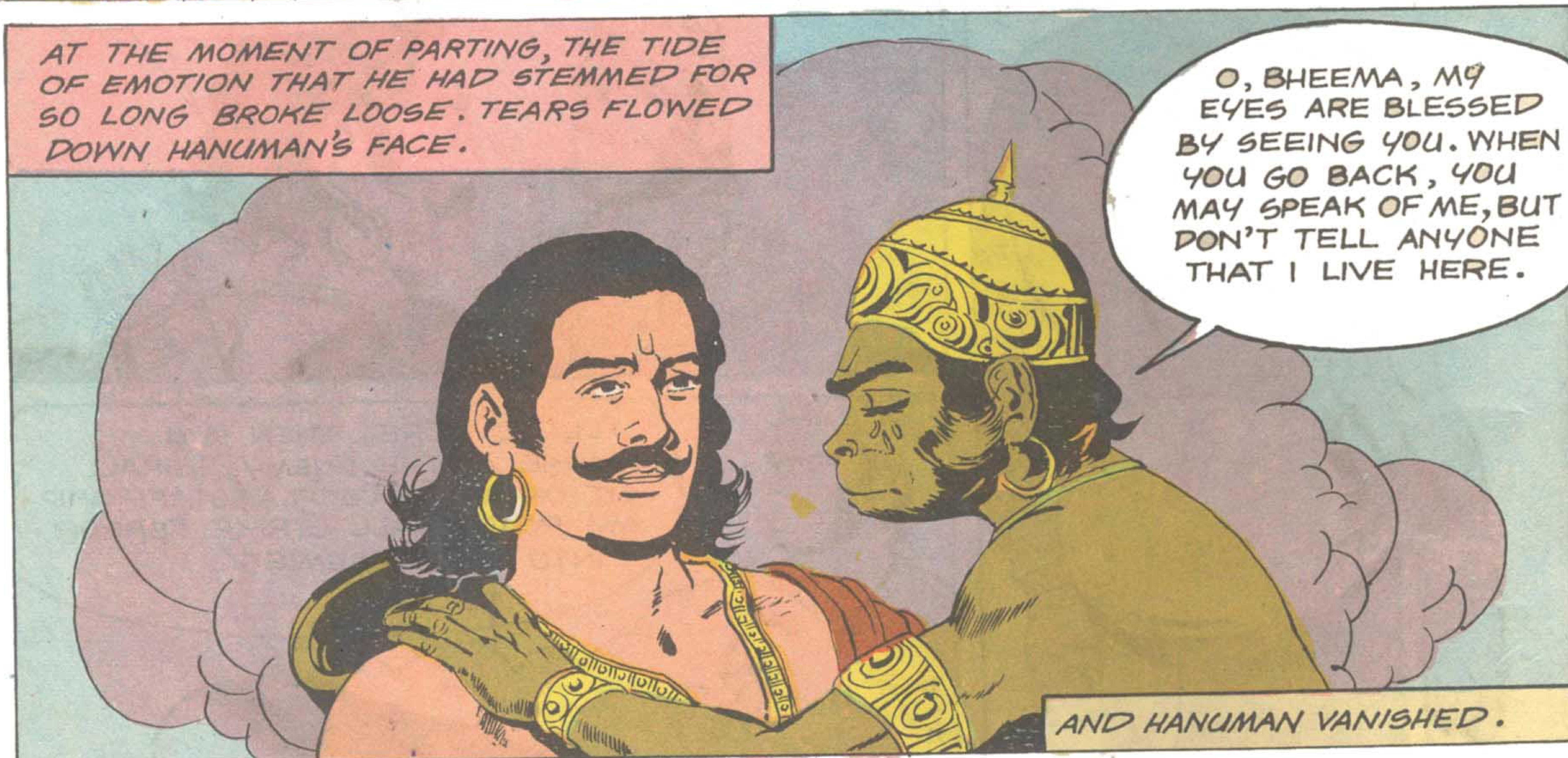

BHEEMA FELL PROSTRATE BEFORE HANUMAN..
MY BROTHER! HANUMAN! I HAVE SEEN YOU! NO ONE IS MORE FORTUNATE THAN I AM. SHOW ME THE FORM IN WHICH YOU CROSSED THE OCEAN! PLEASE!

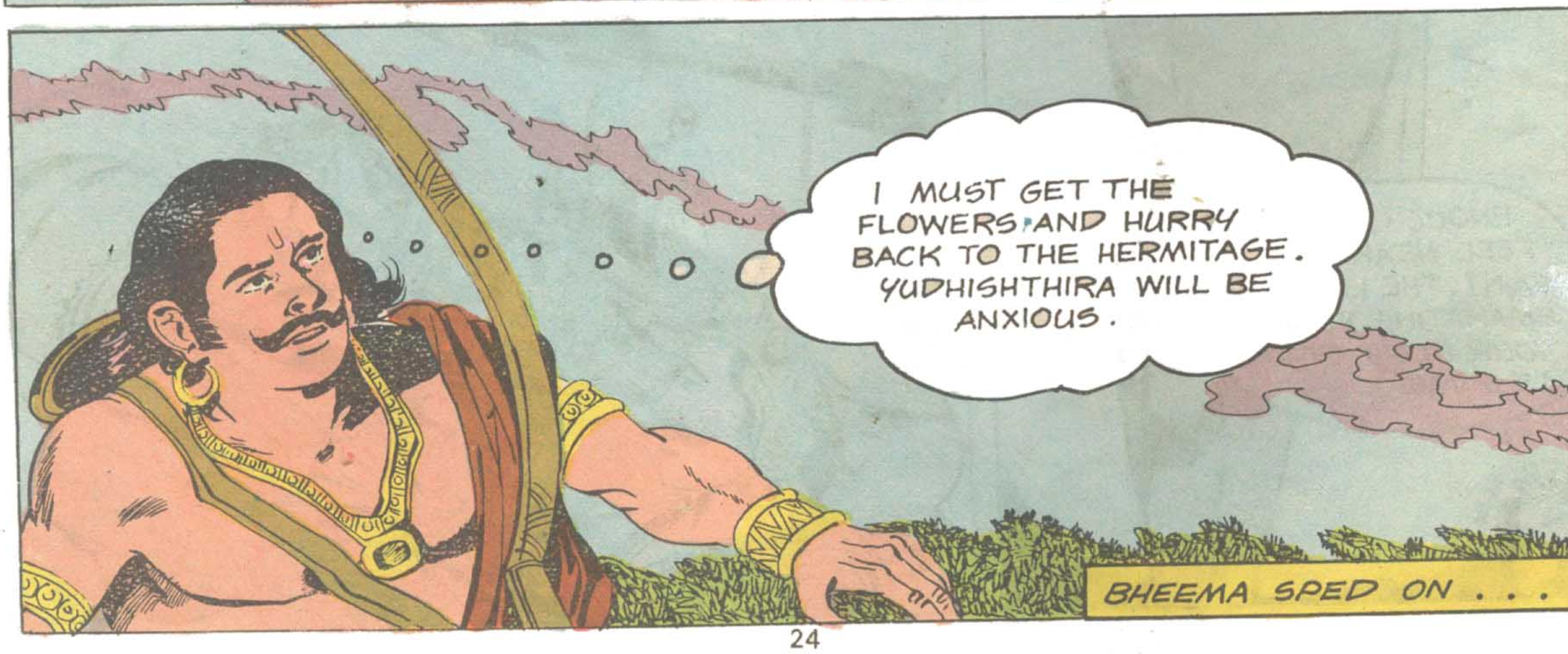

SUDDENLY, HANUMAN'S BODY GREW BIGGER AND BIGGER . . .

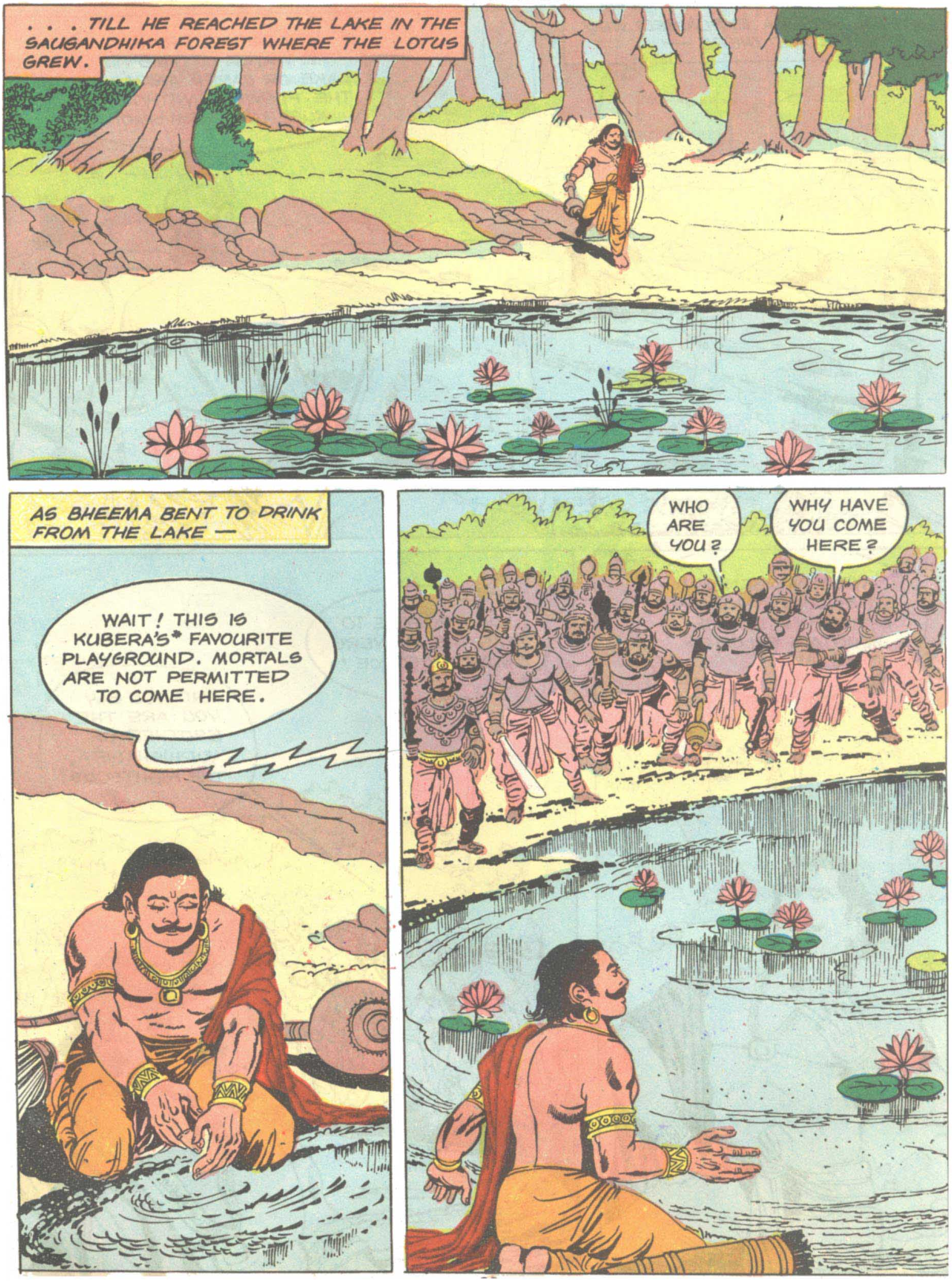

. . . TILL IT ROSE HIGHER THAN THE GANDHAMADANA MOUNTAIN.

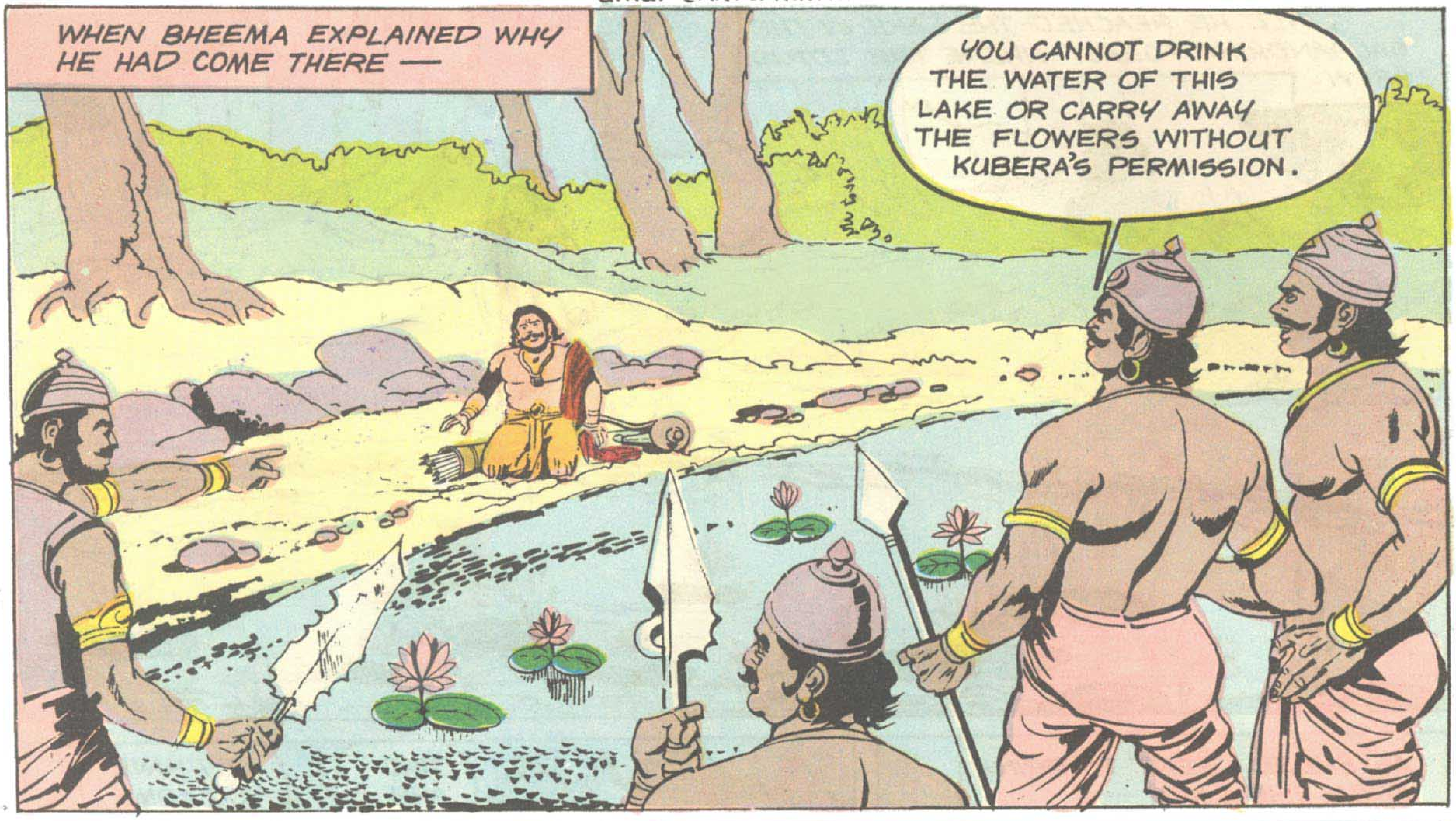

ENOUGH! I FEEL WEAK AND FAINT. THE LIGHT EMANATING FROM YOUR BODY DAZZLES ME!
RETURNING TO HIS EARLIER SIZE, HANUMAN EMBRACED BHEEMA.
I FEEL A STRANGE POWER ENTER MY BODY!
MY FATIGUE HAS GONE! FILLED WITH YOUR STRENGTH AND YOUR BLESSINGS, O HANUMAN, WE ARE SURE TO CONQUER OUR ENEMIES.
I'LL DO MORE. WHEN YOU CHARGE AT THE ENEMY, I SHALL SIT ON ARJUNA'S FLAGSTAFF AND MY ROAR SHALL STRIKE TERROR INTO YOUR ENEMIES' HEARTS.

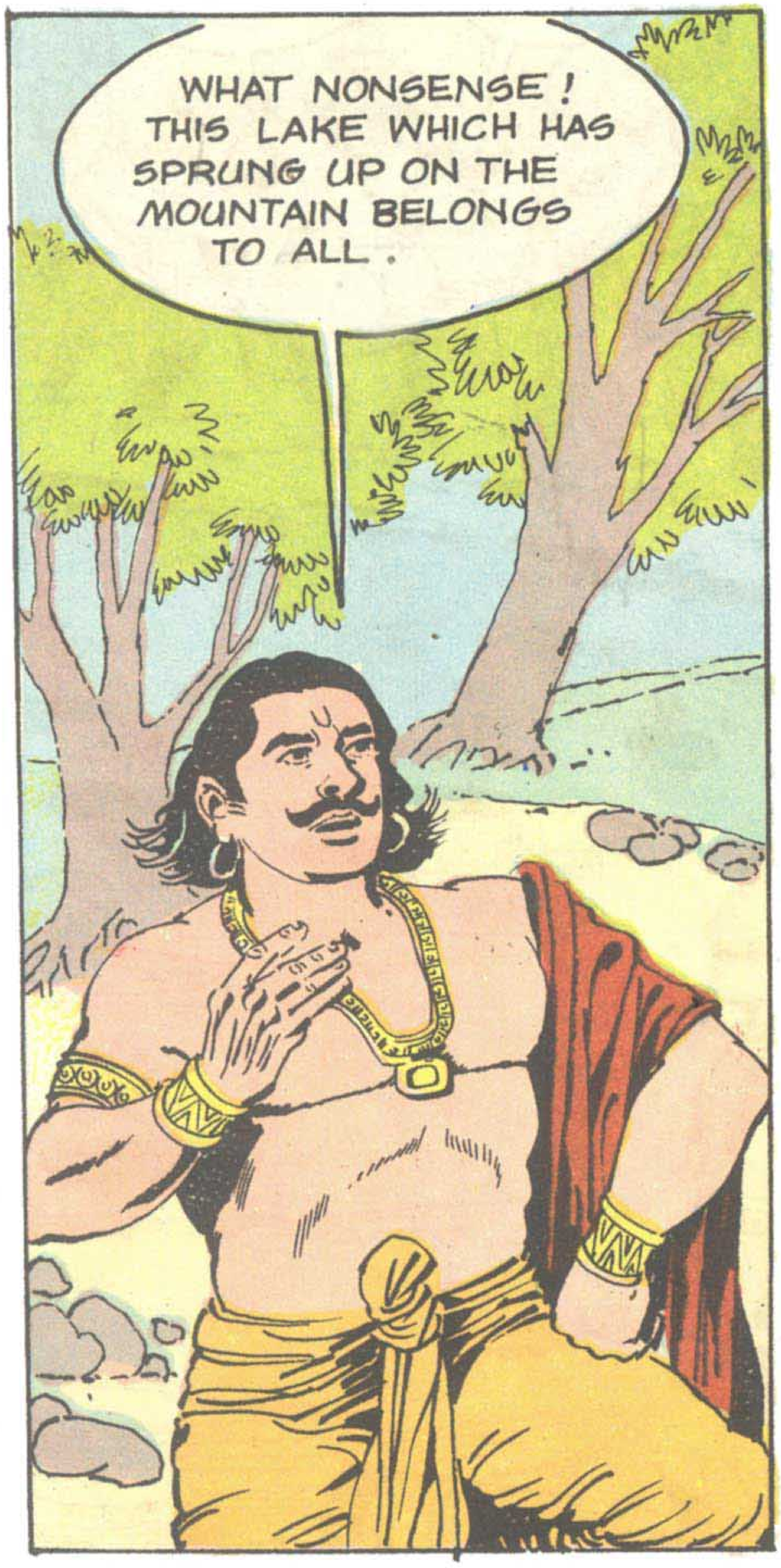

HANUMAN THEN POINTED TO A PATH.
THAT PATH WILL TAKE YOU TO THE SAUGANDHIKA FOREST AND KUBERA'S FAVOURITE GARDENS. THERE YOU WILL FIND THE FLOWERS YOU ARE LOOKING FOR.


AT THE MOMENT OF PARTING, THE TIDE OF EMOTION THAT HE HAD STEMMED FOR SO LONG BROKE LOOSE. TEARS FLOWED DOWN HANUMAN'S FACE.
O, BHEEMA, MY EYES ARE BLESSED BY SEEING YOU. WHEN YOU GO BACK, YOU MAY SPEAK OF ME, BUT DON'T TELL ANYONE THAT I LIVE HERE.
AND HANUMAN VANISHED.


I MUST GET THE FLOWERS AND HURRY BACK TO THE HERMITAGE. YUDHISHTHIRA WILL BE ANXIOUS.
BHEEMA SPED ON . . .

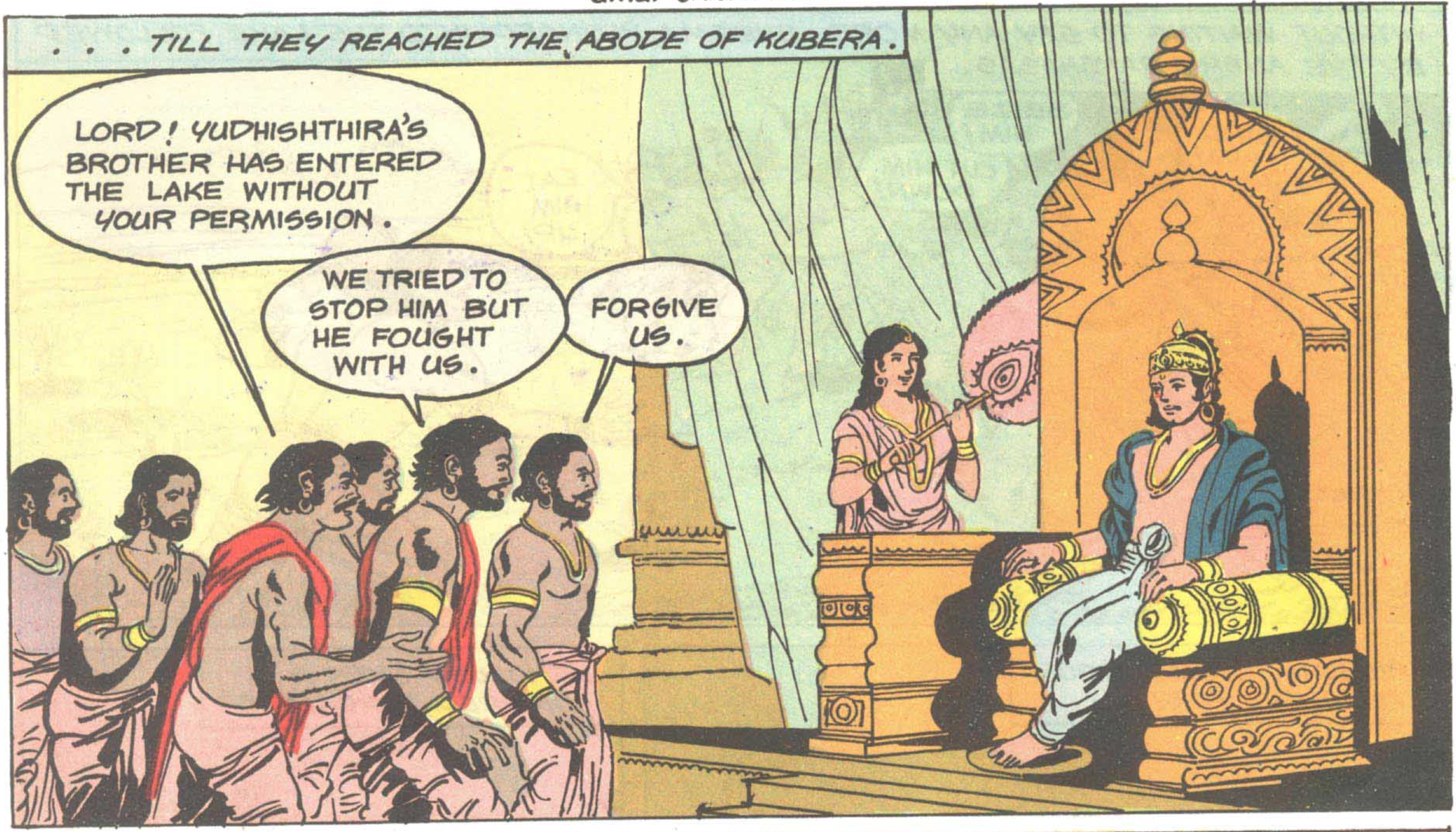

. . . TILL HE REACHED THE LAKE IN THE SAUGANDHIKA FOREST WHERE THE LOTUS GREW.
AS BHEEMA BENT TO DRINK FROM THE LAKE —
WAIT! THIS IS KUBERA'S* FAVOURITE PLAYGROUND. MORTALS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO COME HERE.
WHO ARE YOU?
WHY HAVE YOU COME HERE?


WHEN BHEEMA EXPLAINED WHY HE HAD COME THERE —
YOU CANNOT DRINK THE WATER OF THIS LAKE OR CARRY AWAY THE FLOWERS WITHOUT KUBERA'S PERMISSION.

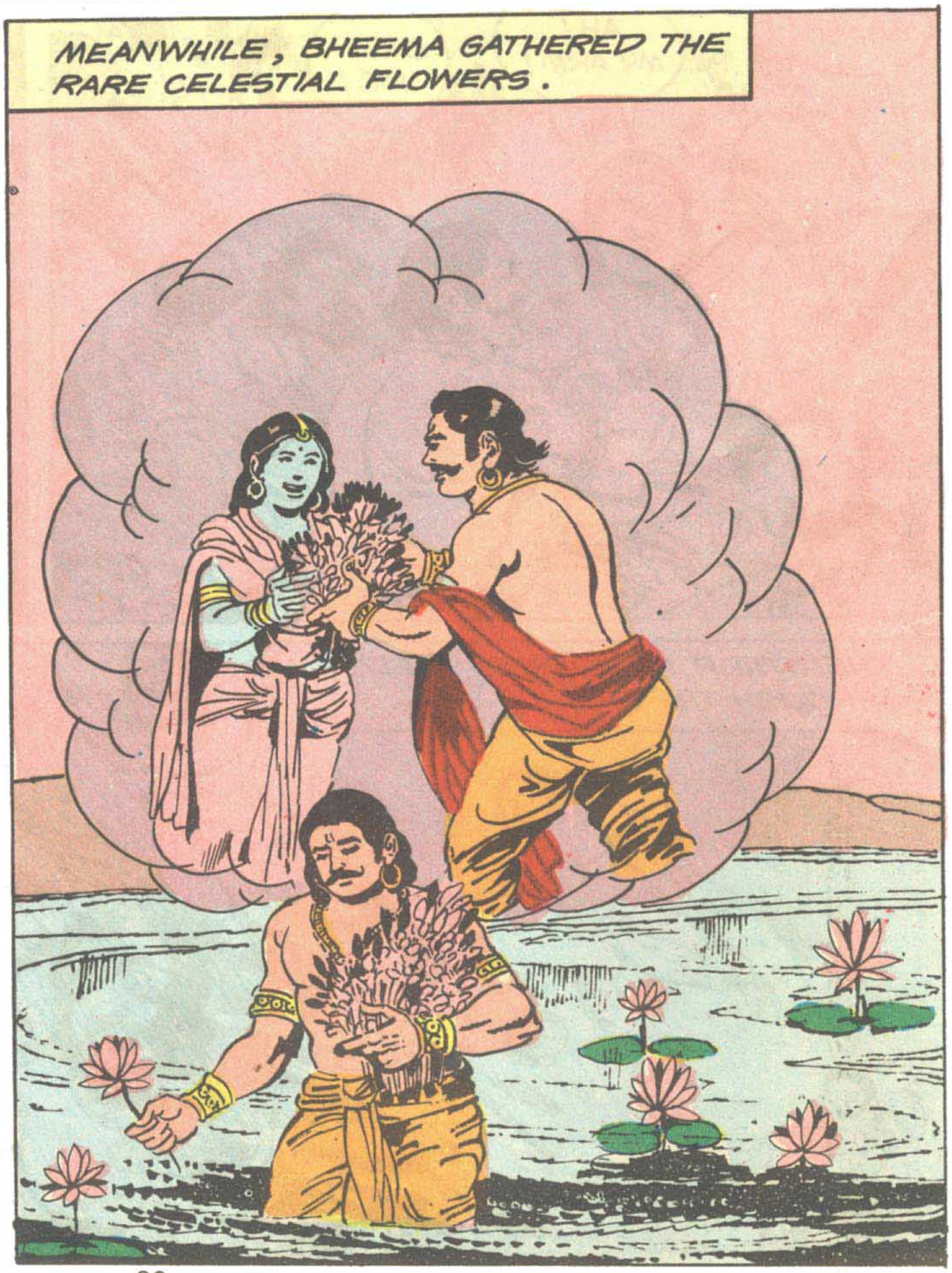

WHAT NONSENSE ! THIS LAKE WHICH HAS SPRUNG UP ON THE MOUNTAIN BELONGS TO ALL .


YOU PROPOSE TO TAKE THE FLOWERS AWAY BY FORCE !
AND YOU SAY YOU ARE THE BROTHER OF YUDHISHTHIRA, THE RIGHTEOUS !

WITHOUT WAITING TO SAY ANY MORE, BHEEMA PLUNGED INTO THE LAKE FOLLOWED BY THE ANGRY RAKSHASAS.
BIND HIM!
SEIZE HIM!
CUT HIM DOWN!
EAT HIM UP!
BHEEMA TURNED UPON THEM IN A FURY.
AA-AH!
AH! MY ARM!
SAVE ME!
HE KILLED OVER A HUNDRED RAKSHASAS.
FLEE!
FLEE!
THE OTHER RAKSHASAS FLED THROUGH THE SKY . . .

. . . TILL THEY REACHED THE ABODE OF KUBERA.
LORD! YUDHISHTHIRA'S BROTHER HAS ENTERED THE LAKE WITHOUT YOUR PERMISSION.
WE TRIED TO STOP HIM BUT HE FOUGHT WITH US.
FORGIVE US.


TO THEIR ASTONISHMENT, KUBERA SMILED.
I KNOW WHY BHEEMA IS HERE! RETURN TO YOUR POSTS. LET HIM TAKE THE FLOWERS.


MEANWHILE, BHEEMA GATHERED THE RARE CELESTIAL FLOWERS.


THEN HE BEGAN TO FROLIC IN THE LAKE, THINKING OF DRAUPADI'S JOY AT RECEIVING THE FLOWERS.
SUCH WAS THE ZEST WITH WHICH HE MADE SPORT IN THE WATER THAT A VIOLENT STORM AROSE, WHICH WHIRLED WATER AND STONES AROUND.
FIERY METEORS BEGAN TO FALL. DREADFUL SOUNDS OF EXPLOSIONS RANG THROUGH THE SKY. THE EARTH BEGAN TO TREMBLE AND DUST FELL IN SHOWERS. BIRDS AND BEASTS CRIED IN SHRILL VOICES.
AT THE HERMITAGE, YUDHISHTHIRA WAS ALARMED.
O BROTHERS, ARM YOURSELVES. WE MAY SOON HAVE TO SHOW OUR MIGHT.


BUT WHERE IS BHEEMA ?
ONLY THEN DID YUDHISHTHIRA REALISE THAT DRAUPADI WAS SMILING SERENELY.
DRAUPADI, IS BHEEMA BENT ON PERFORMING SOME GREAT ACT ? OR HAS THAT HERO ALREADY ACHIEVED SOME GREAT FEAT ?
O KING, HE MUST HAVE FOUND THE CELESTIAL LOTUSES.
DO YOU REMEMBER THE ONE I GAVE YOU ? I HAD TOLD HIM TO BRING SOME MORE OF THEM FOR ME.
YUDHISHTHIRA TURNED IN ALARM TO GHATOTKACHA .
YOU KNOW WHERE THE LAKE IS. TAKE US THERE BEFORE HE OFFENDS THE CELESTIALS AND INCURS THEIR WRATH.
CARRIED BY GHATOTKACHA AND HIS RAKSHASAS, THEY SOON CAME TO THE LAKE.
AH! THERE HE IS! AND HE IS LOOKING VERY PLEASED!


O BHEEMA, WHAT HAVE YOU DONE? IF YOU CARE FOR ME, YOU MUST NEVER AGAIN COMMIT SUCH RASH ACT!
BHEEMA MERELY SMILED IN REPLY AND GAVE THE FLOWERS TO THE RADIANT DRAUPADI.
A LITTLE LATER, KUBERA'S RAKSHASA GUARDS CAME TO THE LAKE.
IT'S YUDHISH-THIRA!
THE RAKSHASAS BOWED HUMBLY BEFORE HIM.
GO TO YOUR LORD AND TELL HIM THAT I, YUDHISH-THIRA, SEEK HIS PERMISSION TO LIVE FOR A WHILE AT THIS SPOT.
KUBERA NATURALLY GAVE HIS PERMISSION AND THE PANDAVAS LIVED THERE, TILL ARJUNA RETURNED FROM INDRAKEELA.





We're all in it together
For the taste of it

Campa, the fun drink with the sensational orange flavour. Try it for the fun of it. Drink it for the taste of it. Have it for the sheer joy of living: like all these wonderful, thirsty people. Right now.

Campa
Orange Flavour
For the fun of it

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"HELP! HELP!
....HIJACK. ....YES!!"
THIEVES MAKE HASTE
WRROOMM....
BUNNY GIVES CHASE.
THIEVES HOLE UP IN THEIR HIDEOUT.
BUNNY SENDS SOS.....
THIEVES ENJOY THE LOOT, WHILE BUNNY AND FRIENDS CLOSE IN.....
"YOU'RE SURROUNDED. YOU HAVE JUST 3 MINUTES TO SURRENDER!"
NUTRINE.... MMM.... WHAT A TEMPTATION!
nutrine
a terrific treat in every sweet!
nutrine

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